

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for processing coins introduced in a coin tester of an automatic unit delivering goods or services, said coin tester containing a selector for distinguishing the value of introduced coins, a pre-receptacle, at least one reserve for recycling certain coins, including several locations, each location being able to receive only one coin of any value, a bowl for giving back the coins, and a safe, ~~of the type including, for each introduced coin,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

~~a step for receiving and identifying the coin~~ a first introduced coin having a first value;

~~a step for temporarily storing the coin in the pre-receptacle;~~

~~a step for giving back the coin or a step for collecting the coin into the safe or into the reserve,~~

~~wherein the step for collecting the coin includes a step for determining whether the coin should be stored in the safe or in the reserve, according to conditions relating to the value of the coin, and to the number of coins which have the same value as the new coin, which are present in the reserve.~~

if conditions relating to the value of said first introduced coin and to the number

of coins which have the same value as said first introduced coin and which are present in the reserve are satisfied, collecting said first introduced coin into the reserve at any one of said several locations;

giving back change by transferring one or more coins to the bowl;

receiving and identifying a second introduced coin having a second value;

temporarily storing said second introduced coin in the pre-receptacle;

if conditions relating to the value of the said second introduced coin, and to the number of coins which have the same value as said second introduced coin which are present in the reserve are satisfied, collecting the second coin into the reserve at the same location as said first introduced coin.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the collection step includes~~ further comprising storing the coin in the safe instead of the reserve, if the reserve is full, or if, according to the value of coin, the number of coins which have the same value as the new coin and which are present in the reserve, is equal to a determined maximum number of coins.

3. (currently amended) The ~~processing~~ method according to claim 2, wherein the maximum number of coins of ~~certain values~~ the value of said first introduced coin is different from the maximum number of coins of ~~certain other values~~ the value of said second introduced coin.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein ~~in that~~ for certain

determined coin values, the maximum number of coins of this value is equal to the capacity of the reserve.

5. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the maximum number of coins of each value is predetermined.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1[[;]] further comprising a ~~periodic step for calculating~~, at a first pre-defined interval, the maximum number of coins of each value able to be stored in the reserve, according to the amounts of coins of each value received and taken out from the reserve during a first determined period, and according to the maximum number of coins of each value as determined during the preceding calculation step

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step for collecting the coin into the reserve includes storing the coin in ~~any~~ a determined empty location of the reserve according to the value of the coin.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step for collecting the coin by storing it in the reserve[[,]] includes a step for storing in memory the location and the value of the coin.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, further comprising a ~~periodic step, with a longer period as said first period, for~~ manually loading the reserve, so that it contains the maximum number of coins of each value at intervals longer than said first pre-defined intervals.

12. (currently amended) A device for storing coins of different values, implementing a method according to claim 1, said device comprising: a selector, ~~a magazine for receiving and recycling the introduced coins, a safe for storing coins, and a bowl for giving back the coins, wherein the magazine includes a pre-receptacle and at least one reserve for recycling certain coins, said reserve including several locations, each location being able to receive a single coin of any value ,~~ a safe for storing coins, and a bowl for giving back coins.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~13~~ 12, ~~wherein the electronic control device further comprises~~ comprising a means for identifying each location and for storing in memory the contents of the location.

15. (currently amended) The device according to claim 14, wherein the locations are mobile within the ~~magazine~~ reserve and that the ~~electronic control device includes~~

comprises means for detecting the position of each location.

16. (currently amended) The ~~method according to claim 8, wherein the coin tester employed in said method further includes device according to claim 12 further~~ comprising means for identifying each coin and for determining the location associated with the coin.

17. (cancelled)

18. (new) A method for processing coins introduced in a coin tester of an automatic unit delivering goods or services, said coin tester containing a selector for distinguishing the value of introduced coins, a pre-receptacle, at least one reserve for recycling certain coins, including several locations, each location being able to receive only one coin of any value, a bowl for giving back coins, and a safe, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving and identifying a coin;

temporarily storing said coin in the pre-receptacle;

giving back said coin or collecting said coin into said safe or into one of said

several locations in said at least one reserve,

wherein the step for collecting said coin includes a step for determining whether said coin should be stored in said safe or into one of said several locations in said at least one reserve, according to conditions relating to the value of the coin, and to the number of coins present in the reserve which have the same value as the new coin.